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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/338,286	06/22/1999	RICHARD SNOW	IGT1PO73	1185

22434 7590 03/26/2002

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EXAMINER

HOTALING, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3713

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/338,286

Applicant(s)

SNOW ET AL.

Examiner

John M Hotaling II

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on 3/1/02 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/338,286 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 10-13, 15, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Weiss US Patent 6,071,190. With respect to claim 10 please see figure 2, figure 6 and column 6, 11, and 12 which disclose a housing 100, a plurality of user inputs, a display 50, a gaming processing subsystem is a secure processing area 60 which includes a processor board 162 and a main board 164 which controls the display and sound generated connected by a bus to a back plane 166. Board 164 also

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encompasses the general computing subsystem and has a bus interface and an expansion board. The processor board 162, a main board 164 and the back plane 166 may be integrally or separately formed. The use of PCI, ISA, VME, or AGP in order to connect peripherals to a bus are notoriously well known in the computing art and as such no patentable weight will be given to these interface protocols. With respect to claim 11 column 12 and figure 7 disclose a second gaming processing subsystem board 252. With respect to claim 12 please see above in that the processor can be separately or integrally formed with main board or back plane. With respect to claim 13 the main board includes memory in the form of ROM and EEPROM which can be non-volatile memory as disclosed in column 11. With respect to claim 15 column 11 discloses serial interface for linking with a second processing area and figure 6 which discloses a back plane for connection to peripherals and a plurality of communication ports. With respect to claim 18 please see figure 6 and columns 11 and 12 where the listed functions are controlled and are listed as follows; a system event controller (jackpot information), the random number generator (RNG), a win decoder/pay table, status indicators, a communications handler, a display sound generator, coin acceptors, game buttons (user interface devices), mechanical hand levers (user interface devices), key and door switches (game machine access), other auxiliary inputs, a touch screen (user interface devices), a bill validator, a printer, and a accounting network (game play history). With respect to claim 19 please see above with respect to claim 18 and in addition where and external video source can be mixed with the game item 200 of figure 6, column 12 discloses a sound board and a high resolution monitor, with respect to attraction

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animation features and player visual feedback column 11 discloses that typical elements which provide discrete outputs are in the form of lamps, hard meters, hoppers, diverters, and other auxiliary outputs. Column 6 discloses that the outcome of any video game can be displayed on the visual display or presented visually or audibly on any other peripheral which is an attract mode. With respect to the commercial operating system the game processing area is operating a for profit commercial operating system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14, 16, 17, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss US Patent 6,071,190. Weiss discloses all of the instant application as disclosed above but fails to disclose a data socket for a PROM, and the use of specific busses and expansion cards, processor architecture, or software. Weiss does disclose the use of a EEPROM and the use of a bus system with a back plane and a communications system, in column 2 line 51 that the system is based on a personal computer design and in column 1 the validation of gaming software. With respect to claim 14 a data socket that can incorporate a PROM is hornbook engineering and no patentable weight shall be given to that limitation in the claim. Additionally, see above where an EEPROM may be used. With respect to claims 16 and 17 the specific use of a

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PCI expansion card where the bus is a PCI bus will not be given any patentable weight since there is no inherent benefit evidenced by the recitation in claim 1 that a plurality of different bus and interconnectivity standards may be used. With respect to claims 20 and 21 where the processing platform employs a personal computer processor architecture and that the processor communicates using a software program please see above with respect to the personal computer and the software validation. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use hornbook engineering to place a chip socket on a processor board as is commonly done in the computing hardware arts. It would be additionally obvious to one of skill in the art that any equivalent bus system may be utilized since one is being utilized by Weiss and Weiss does not limit the type. It is equally obvious that any processor could be utilized in a custom application since one skilled in the art of designing electrical processing boards would have the knowledge to choose the correct processing system for the application software which would be run on the processor. One would be motivated to provide the above limitations into the Weiss reference since it the above limitations conform to well-known standards, regulations and common design practice.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Hotaling II whose telephone number is 703 305 0780. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on (703) 308-4119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 746 3236 for regular communications and 703 308-7769 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-7777.

John M Hotaling II
March 21, 2002



Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)
6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.